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1/77

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(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

JCBB/SPY

16 SEP 2002

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0221481.5

17SEP02 E748692-2 D02624
P01/7700 0.00-0221481.5

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

John Michael RICHARDS
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Littlehampton,
BN16 1JL.

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

06708317001

4. Title of the invention

GRIP FOR HAND HELD INSTRUMENTS

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

J.C. BRIDGE-BUTLER

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

G.F. REDFERN & CO.
7 Staple Inn, Holborn, London WC1V 7QF

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

1412002

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

NO

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
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Patents Form 1/77

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Continuation sheets of this form

Description 4

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s) 1 *21*

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

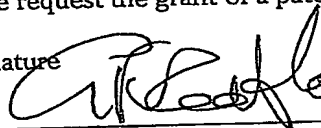
Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature



Date 16 September 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

J.C. BRIDGE-BUTLER

020 7242 7680

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GRIP FOR HAND HELD INSTRUMENTS

This invention relates to a novel hand grip for tools held between the fore finger, middle finger and thumb in the manner of a writing instrument.

Pens, pencils and other tools held in the same manner are commonly cylindrical in shape, and dimensioned to fit between the digits. However, in use such items can cause discomfort, due to the digits being pressed up against the cylindrical shape for a prolonged period.

It is known to provide a more ergonomically shaped grip section for a writing implement. Common examples comprise a tapered grip section, or a padded resilient grip section. The present invention is intended to provide a novel approach.

When an individual learns to write, it is important to learn to grip the writing instrument in the traditional way. However, writing implements can be gripped in multiple ways, which can lead to confusion and/or the adoption of an incorrect writing style.

Further, particular writing instruments must be held at a particular rotation, for example a fountain pen which must have the tip of the nib placed squarely onto the writing surface. In addition, a "carpenter's pencil" which has an irregularly shaped lead cross-section, for example a rectangle, must be held at a certain rotation in order to write in a particular manner, for example in a classical style with a broad down stroke and a narrow cross stroke. If instruments like those described are held at an incorrect rotation it can lead to damage to the instrument or an undesired writing result.

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The present invention is also intended to overcome some of these problems.

According to the present invention a tool adapted to be held in use between the fore finger, middle finger and thumb, is provided with a substantially triangular grip section in which a first and a second side of the triangle are provided with a curved recess.

In a preferred construction the curved recesses extend along the length of the side of the triangle, and are shaped and dimensioned to substantially correspond to the curvature of the underside of the fore finger and thumb.

In one construction the tool is a writing instrument. It will be appreciated that the tool can be any implement which is held in the manner of a writing instrument.

Preferably the third side of the triangle is substantially flat, so it can be rested on the side of the middle finger in use. This arrangement is suited to constructions in which the tool must be held a particular way up, for example a fountain pen or a carpenter's pencil, because the grip can only be held comfortably with the first and second sides uppermost. It will be appreciated that it will be immediately clear to the user of the instrument if it is not held at the correct rotation because it will be uncomfortable to use. This embodiment can also be used with other tools, for example surgical instruments, which may also need to be held at a particular rotation.

In a preferred embodiment the flat side of the triangle may be disposed in substantially the same plane as the active surface or point of the tool. For example, if it is desired to write in a classical style with a carpenter's pencil, the flat side may be disposed in substantially the same plane as a broad surface of the lead in the pencil.

However, in an alternative construction the first, second and third sides of the triangle can be provided with a curved recess, so that the tool can be held comfortably any way up.

The invention can be performed in various ways but two embodiments will now be described by way of example, and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional front view of a pen according to the present invention;

and,

Figure 2 is a front view of the pen shown in Figure 1 in use.

As shown in Figure 1 an ink pen 1 is provided with a substantially triangular grip section 2. A first side 3 and a second side 4 of the grip section are shaped as curved recesses. The ink pen is provided with an ink cartridge 1a.

As shown in Figure 2 the grip section 2 is adapted to be held in use between the fore finger 5, middle finger 6 and thumb 7, in the traditional way. The first and second sides 3 and 4 are shaped to receive the physical shape of the fore finger 5 and the thumb 7. The third side

8 is substantially flat, and is adapted to be seated on the side 9 of the middle finger 6.

Thus, when the ink pen 1 is gripped for use, the fore finger 5 and thumb 6 are not misshaped under the pressure of the user's grip.

It will also be appreciated that the ink pen 1 can only be gripped comfortably in the traditional manner between the fore finger 5, middle finger 6 and thumb 7. Therefore, the ink pen 1 can be used as a tool to teach the correct method of holding an instrument for writing.

Further, the embodiment described can be used with ink pens or other instruments which must be held at a particular rotation, for example a fountain pen or a carpenter's pencil.

In a further embodiment, not shown, a writing instrument is substantially the same shape as the pen 1 shown in Figures 1 and 2, but is dimensioned to be used by a child.

In a further embodiment, not shown, a writing instrument is provided with a curved recess on all three sides of the triangular grip, so it can be held comfortably any way up.

Thus, a tool which is held in the manner of a writing instrument is provided which can be used without causing discomfort to the digits. Further, a teaching implement is provided which can be used to teach the correct method to hold a writing instrument, or any other implement. In addition, a tool grip is provided which can be used to correctly orientate an instrument which must be held at a particular rotation for use.

FIG 1

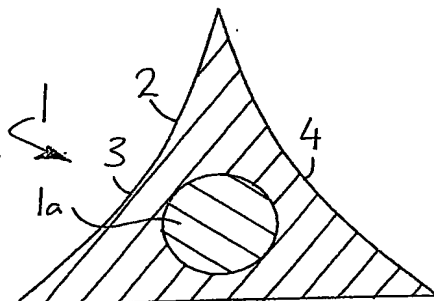


FIG 2

